

Bonhomme, Penny

From: Leslie Hersom [lesliehersom@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 7:13 PM

To: PHC Testimony

Subject: Lyme Public Health Hearing testimony

To Whom It May Concern:

As a citizen and mother, I am responding to the state's request for public testimony regarding problems with Lyme testing and developing a State Lyme Task Force under House Bill 5335. I strongly support improving Lyme Education and Research to better protect my family, friends and neighbors. I personally know all too well the ravages of this horrible disease, as my 2 year old daughter has been suffering with it for 18 months now. What started as a flu-like illness, has now left her completely debilitated, unable to walk, talk or eat.

We have been to countless doctors and hospitals, all of which have been unable to come up with a diagnosis. She has been subject to 7 MRIs, 4 lumbar punctures, CT scan, a muscle biopsy and had over 50 vials of blood drawn for various testing. It was not until we found a Lyme literate MD that we were finally diagnosed with Lyme disease and put on antibiotics. Finally, after over a year of deterioration, she started to show slight improvement. Her road to recovery is extremely long and difficult, with permanent brain damage being a very likely outcome. Better testing, education and research is of paramount importance to manage this horrible disease. As one of the states with the highest incidence of Lyme, it is our responsibility to do what is needed to protect our citizens. And as a mother trying to protect her children, it is my responsibility to share my story.

Sincerely,
Leslie Hersom